

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 083942

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ORIGIN OES-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 PM-04 COME-00 DODE-00 NSF-02

INT-05 EB-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /042 R

DRAFTED BY OES/OFA/MST:WERB:LJA

APPROVED BY OES/OFA/MST:WERB

ARA/MEX GFALK

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R 072125Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS STATE 083942

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCLR, TGEN, TPHY, MX

SUBJECT: R/V ERIN LEDDY-JONES FISH LARVAE STUDIES-

JULY - AUGUST 1976

1. THE R/V ERIN LEDDY-JONES PLANS TO CONDUCT MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN MEXICAN TERRITORIAL WATERS DURING THE PERIOD 15 JULY TO 24 AUGUST 1976. THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL BRANCH OPERATES THE SHIP AS A PRIVATE VESSEL AND IT IS FUNDED BY THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION. OBJECTIVE OF THE RESEARCH IS TO STUDY LEPTOCOPHALUS (MEANING SMALL-HEADED) AND OTHER FISH LARVAE IN THE GULF OF MEXICO. THIS WILL BE THE THIRD SUCH CRUISE CONDUCTED IN MEXICAN WATERS. SAMPLES WILL BE COLLECTED AND PRESERVED FROM PLANKTON TOWS CONDUCTED AT NIGHT TO DETERMINE KINDS, ABUNDANCE, AND DISTRIBUTION. ADULT EELS WILL BE COLLECTED BY BOTTOM TRAWLING. TEMPERATURE, SALINITY, ACIDITY, AND OXYGEN CONTENT WILL ALSO BE MEASURED USING A MARTEK WATER QUALITY ANALYZER.

2. ALL THE SCIENTIFIC DATA WILL BE SHARED WITH THE GOM AND ALL THE PLANKTON SAMPLES WILL BE DEPOSITED WITH THE UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 STATE 083942

CENTRO DE PRECLASIFICACION OCEANICA DE MEXICO. THE

SMALLNESS OF THE SHIP REQUIRES THAT ONLY ONE BERTH BE
MADE AVAILABLE TO A MEXICAN PARTICIPANT.

3. THE SHIP IS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE GALVESTON ON 15 JULY AND ARRIVE AT VERACRUZ ON 22 JULY. DURING THE PERIOD 22 JULY THROUGH 7 AUGUST THE SHIP WILL WORK OUT OF VERACRUZ NOT RANGING MORE THAN 3 OR 4 HOURS AWAY FROM PORT IN THE EVENT BAD WEATHER OCCURS. SAMPLING WILL BE CONDUCTED FROM 2 TO 40 NM OFFSHORE AND WILL BE CONCENTRATED IN THE AREA OF THE 100 FATHOM LINE.

4. CAPTAIN OF THE SHIP IS WILLIAM MAYE AND THERE WILL BE A CREW OF 3 AND SCIENTIFIC PARTY OF 3. DR. WILLIAM H. HULET, CHIEF OF THE MARINE MEDICAL DIVISION AT THE MARINE BIOMEDICAL INSTITUTE IS THE CHIEF SCIENTIST.

5. R/V ERIN LEDDY-JONES IS A 51 FT STERN TRAWLER WITH A 6 FT DRAFT AND WEIGHT OF 36 GROSS TONS.

6. RADIO CALL SIGN IS WYU 8904 AND SHIP HAS VOICE COMMUNICATIONS ON FM CHANNELS 6, 16, 26, 28, 13 AND 14.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY SEEK CLEARANCE FROM GOM FOR R/V ERIN LEDDY-JONES TO CONDUCT MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN MEXICAN TERRITORIAL WATERS DURING PERIOD 15 JULY - 24 AUGUST 1976. ALSO, REQUEST PERMISSION TO OPERATE OUT OF VERACRUZ DURING 22 JULY - 7 AUGUST 1976.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FISH, ERIN LEDDY-JONES R/V, OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE083942
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WERB:LJA
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760132-0641
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760486/aaaacvpa.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUN 2004 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <12 JAN 2005 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: R/V ERIN LEDDY-JONES FISH LARVAE STUDIES- JULY - AUGUST 1976
TAGS: OCLR, TGEN, TPHY, MX, US
To: MEXICO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006